

BOOK NOTICES

FLORAS AND CHECKLISTS

NATHAN SMITH, SCOTT A. MORI, ANDREW HENDERSON, DENNIS WM. STEVENSON and SCOTT HEALD (eds.) 2004. **Flowering Plants of the Neotropics**. (ISBN 0-691-11694-6, hbk.). Princeton University Press, 41 William Street, Princeton, NJ 08540, U.S.A. (Orders: 609-258-5714, 609-258-1335 fax). \$75.00, 616 pp., 307 color photos, 258 line illus., 6 tables, 8 1/2" x 11".

The American tropics is one of the great hotspots of biological diversity, harboring 35% of the world's flowering plants. This magnificent new book from Princeton University Press provides standard treatments for more than 280 families of flowering plants that occur in this region, and is the culmination of the work of 150 botanists from around the world. The goal of the editors was to provide an authoritative reference to plant families that are known to occur in tropical America. They have accomplished their goal, as this book will be an essential reference guide for anyone interested in learning about the rich diversity of the neotropical flora. The text describes features of each family, the diversity of genera and species, classification, geography, ecology, natural history, and important uses. Students learning tropical flowering plant families and their characteristics will find the family features and descriptions especially useful. The excellent identification key to the families treated in the book and the *Aids to Identification* in Appendix V will be of special interest to anyone who wishes to learn to identify neotropical flowering plant families. The editors also provide other useful reference tools, such as a comprehensive botanical glossary, and comparisons of family concepts across the various classification systems, including Cronquist, Dahlgren, and Judd et al. More than 300 color photographs and 250 botanical line drawings provide expert visual aids for identifying and learning about the families. —John Janovec, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.

R.J. PETHERAM and B. KOK. Photography by E. Bartlett-Torr. 2003. **Plants of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. Revised Edition**. (ISBN 1-920694-04-8, pbk.) University of Western Australia Press. (Orders: International Specialized Book Services, 920 NE 58th Avenue, Ste. 300, Portland, OR 97213-3786, U.S.A., 503-287-3093, 503-280-8832 fax, www.isbs.com, email: info@isbs.com). \$40.50, 553 pp., color photos, 6" x 8 1/2".

Publisher Comments: "For many years *Plants of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia* has been an important resource for pastoral managers and rangeland advisors in managing vegetation and land-use issues. This revised edition includes changes to 50 plant names, and also updates the introductory sections about the Kimberley region and the principles of rangeland management. The 240 species covered in the book are organised in three sections: grasses and herbs (110), shrubs (40) and trees (90), and constitute a unique flora not dealt with in any other single volume."

"With its straightforward text and excellent photographs, this book will also be a valuable reference for students of ecology and range science, as well as appealing to nature-lovers, conservationists and travellers in the Kimberley region."

CHARLES M. ALLEN, DAWN ALLEN NEWMAN, and HARRY WINTERS. 2004. **Grasses of Louisiana. Third Edition**. (ISBN 0-9718625-1-6, pbk.). Allen's Native Ventures, LLC, 5070 Hwy 399, Pitkin, LA 70656, U.S.A. (Orders: 337-328-2252, www.nativeventures.net, email: native@camtel.net). \$20.00, 374 pp., 3 maps, b/w line drawings, 7" x 10".